(d) The European Parliament in a resolution adopted on 30-1-03 condemned North Korea's decision to withdraw from the NPT and also called on it to cease its programme to enrich uranium for nuclear weapons in a highly visible and verifiable manner.

Selection of Journalists for official delegations

†5022. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any instructions have been issued with regard to selection of Journalists for accompanying foreign delegation abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria fixed for selection of the journalists in the delegations accompanying the Prime Minister, the Home Minister or any other official delegations;

(d) the types of the delegations in which the journalists are included;

(e) whether Government would adopt the criteria of seniority, pro-activeness and status of the newspapers/magazines while selecting such journalists; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA) : (a) to (d) The Ministry of External Affairs handles media arrangements for VVIP visits abroad. The selection of journalists for VVIP visits is done so as to include a wide range of newspapers, journals, columnists, agencies and TV networks. The composition of media team is so balanced so as to give maximum possible coverage to the visit, keeping in view India's foreign policy priorities and concerns. Invitations are usually sent to the editors and they nominate the journalists for the VVIP media team.

(e) and (f)The professional reputation and status of the newspaper/ magazine/ agency its reach, its interest in the area being visited, and the overall spread of coverage generated are factored in while deciding the composition of the media team. However, exclusion from the media team in no way affects the freedom of any journalists to travel separately and report on the visit. In cases where media persons travel separately, access to media briefings and other logistical assistance are extended by the Ministry of External Affairs.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.